

D2
Control

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and
closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet
parallel to the planar surface.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 23, 2002 has been received, its contents carefully noted, and the applied citations thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the foregoing revisions to claims are tendered with the conviction that patentable contrast has now been made manifest over the known prior art and certain typographical inexactitudes have been rectified. Accordingly, all rejections tendered by the Examiner in the above-referenced Office Action are hereby respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 63 through 65 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 63 through 65 and 67 all add limitations drawn to the use of a "thermosetting material". There is no discussion of the use of a thermosetting material in the originally filed disclosure.

Claims 63 through 65 and 67 have been amended by deleting the word "thermosetting" and to reduce issues on appeal.

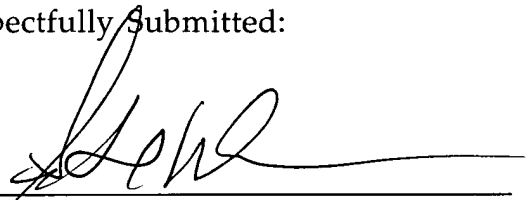
The Examiner is respectfully requested to note that the Office Action to which this amendment responds was mailed on September 23, 2002 thereby requiring a

response by March 23, 2003. March 23, 2003 was Sunday. This, this amendment is timely filed on Monday, March 24, 2003.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If, upon further consideration, the Examiner believes further issues remain outstanding or new ones have been generated, undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner call undersigned to expeditiously resolve same.

Dated: March 24, 2003

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BK', is written over a horizontal line.

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Bracketed and Underlined Claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Claim 63 (amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, the sheet material composed of a [thermosetting] material having a shape memory, whereby a conformed sheet retains a conformed shape after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface.

Claim 64 (amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, the sheet material composed of a [thermosetting] material having a shape memory, whereby a

conformed sheet retains a conformed shape which includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface.

Claim 65 (amended) - A method for forming a medical bag from a [thermosetting] material having a shape memory, the steps including:

forming a first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag,

placing a blank of sheet material over said first mold, and causing the blank to conform to the mold and retain its conformation, whereby a conformed sheet includes a recess that includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge, wherein the conformed sheet retains a conformed shape which includes a planar surface, radiused periphery and peripheral ledge after a conformation occurs, the conformed shape being flexible without brittleness or resistance to deformation,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface.

Claim 67 (amended) - A method for forming a bag, the steps including:

conforming a [thermosetting] sheet material to a first mold, said first mold having at least one portal-shaped recess and a recess including a planar surface, a radiused periphery circumscribing said planar surface and a peripheral ledge circumscribing said radiused periphery and oriented parallel to said planar surface, whereby a portal formed by said portal-shaped recess passes into an interior of the bag, said [thermosetting] material having a shape memory of a post-conformation shape,

removing the conformed sheet from the mold, and

closing the recess formed in the conformed sheet with another sheet parallel to the planar surface.